

Sept. 17, 1917.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League was held on the above date, at 249 Mulberry St., New York, N. Y.

Those present were: Dr. W. G. Alexander, Rev. R. D. Brown, Mr. C. M. Brown, Mr. W. J. Faust, Mrs. Eugene Gregory, Mrs. W. G. Green, Mr. A. V. Hamburg, Rev. David Luck, Mr. A. W. MacDougal, Miss Pendleton, Miss Virginia Robinson, Mr. Stewart, Mr. A. N. Stubblebine, Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones of New York and Mr. William M. Ashby.

Mr. A. N. Stubblebine chairman of the Committee presided. Miss Pendleton who has been Acting Executive Secretary since the formation of the League stated that she is resigning as Executive Secretary, since the Society has been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. William Ashby. The chairman thought that some action should be taken regarding Miss Pendleton's resignation, whereupon, it was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that the Executive Committee in accepting Miss Pendleton's resignation with regret, expressed hearty appreciation of the work she has done. Treasurer's report: Mr. MacDougal presented the Treasurer's report which was approved and ordered filed with the minutes. Mr. Ashby was then asked to make a few remarks, which he did, expressing his deep interest in the work into which he has been called, and his belief and determination that it will succeed.

Miss Pendleton moved, it was seconded by Miss Robinson that Mr. Ashby be given the privilege of choosing his own assistants at an appropriate salary. This brought forth the discussion as to the necessity of the Executive of a Society of this kind having full power to choose his assistant. Mr. C. M. Brown thought it unwise for the Executive Secretary to have the power to appoint assistants. Mr. Faust and Miss Pendleton stated that they had been in Executive positions, and it would be an unfortunate hindrance to good work if such a power was not in the hands of the Executive. Further discussion followed about the salary of such an assistant. Miss Pendleton proposed that a motion be amended to read that an assistant be engaged at a salary not exceeding \$60. a month.

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Rev. R. D. Brown said that he had voted Mr. Ashby as coming to the Society at this time, although Mr. Hamburg at the next meeting expressed it as his opinion that it might be best to wait. He therefore thought that it would be wise to go slowly in engaging an assistant. Mr. Eugene K. Jones of New York also expressed his opinion that it would be better to go slowly. He said he had started just as Mr. Ashby is, without an assistant and at Mr. Ashby's present salary. Mr. A.V. Hamburg came in at this juncture and entered the discussion. He said that he thought before engaging a regular assistant the Society should have some plan outlined as to how to go out and get funds. The motion was then put before the Committee and lost.

Mr. Ashby was asked by Mr. Hamburg to make a statement as to what he had done so far. Mr. Ashby has not been in the city two weeks. He said he had already visited factories and gotten in touch with employers with permission to speak with the men engaging the new colored workers there to learn the ways of northern factories. Miss Pendleton then suggested that further discussion be brought forward regarding office assistants, since the clerical work of the Negro Welfare League has been done entirely by herself and her stenographer since the formation of the League; that she no longer has the time to give to this part of the work, and that with regard to the important matter of raising funds it would be necessary to have some clerical help. It would also be necessary to have some person at the office to answer the telephone and inquiries, etc., since Mr. Ashby must necessarily be out of the office a great deal in order to accomplish anything.

Mr. Hamburg thereupon made a motion which was duly seconded that a committee of two be appointed by the Chairman and the Executive Secretary to lay a plan to consider the work of the Society for the next three months and to recommend at the next meeting this plan, and such help as may be required in the office. This was brought before the Committee and carried. Mr. Hamburg then made a motion which was seconded and carried, that the secretary be empowered to get such temporary help that should be required.

The Chairman brought before the Committee the suggestion that the work which Miss Virginia Robinson is doing in Newark among Negro women and girls, and the work of the League should be brought together more cooperatively.

Mr. Iuck was asked to give suggestions as to how this could be done. He said that what he has been aiming at is

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to get a house where such work can go on, and the suggestion had been made that the League also have rooms in this house. She has found a place which is suitable in all respects for such location. The landlady is not willing to rent to colored people, but is willing to sell for \$2,500. each and mortgage on the rest of the place. He is trying to interest a number of men to put up \$250. each for this purpose. It was moved, seconded and passed that this Society cooperate by all means with the work Miss Robinson is doing under Dr. Lusk.

Mr. Ashby was asked to state his opinion about the necessity of an office as soon as possible. He said that the present quarters in the Associated Charities' office was cramped and hard to find, and that if this cooperative plan did not go through shortly it would be better for the League to have temporary quarters elsewhere.

Mrs. Gregory moved that the matter of the office should be postponed until the next meeting. It was amended by Mr. Brown that this matter should be referred to the special committee suggested by Mr. Hamburg. This motion was duly seconded and passed. Mr. C. M. Brown also spoke of recent disturbances in the streets between colored people and the whites. The Rev. R. D. Brown thought that most of these were exaggerated in the newspapers and called race riots when they were merely ordinary troubles that arise from rowdies in all big cities. Mr. Stabbedine stated that such matters could be easily referred to the Executive Secretary who would bring them before the Committee, if it was deemed necessary.

Mr. Ashby also spoke of the Friendly Visitors Committee wishing to have a relief fund, and suggested that benches be put in stores for such purposes. Rev. R. D. Brown thought that the committee should discuss the question of relief funds. This also was reported to be considered by the Committee suggested by Mr. Hamburg.

Mr. C. M. Brown mentioned the work that Mrs. Aris Richardson is doing at the municipal bureau, and thought that the League should pay part of Mrs. Richardson's expenses at least. Mrs. Gregory moved, Miss Robinson seconded that the Society endorse Mr. Richardson's work and ask the Municipal Bureau to pay Mrs. Richardson for the work she is doing. Carried. Mrs. Gregory reported for the friendly visitors Committee that the committee had no vacation this summer and is meeting regularly.

There being no further business before the committee, a motion to adjourn was passed.

John B. Richardson
Sec. pro tem.

Executive Committee of the
Negro Welfare League.

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At the Executive Committee meeting in September, a special committee was appointed, which Committee was to draw plans for the line of work to be followed in the subsequent three months.

In submitting the following report, I feel that I have carried out as far as I was able the programme laid down by that special Committee.

1. Appeals were sent and many personal approaches were made to persons in order to secure funds. The Treasurer's report will tell the results of the appeals and interviews.
2. Housing- Investigations were made and photographs taken so as to present pictorially the real conditions under which Negroes live here. Both the investigation and pictures were submitted to the News so as to awaken their interest. They did become interested and asked me if I would go with the photographer to have more descriptive pictures taken. This was done and both the pictures and the investigations were brought out in that paper.

Results.

1. It awakened public consciousness to the real needs and caused various effective agencies to take steps for betterment.
2. On talking with Dr. Craster, Head of the Department of Health, as to what might be done to counteract possible sickness and death, I suggested that we get out a circular which would tell people the essential rules of health and suggest to them things which would enable them to more quickly fit themselves in new environment.
Dr. Craster and Disbrow agreed to this and among us, we got out this circular, the Board of Health printing about 5,000 and we helped through our volunteers in the distribution of these.
3. The hastening of the appointment of a colored nurse, Miss Eva Mulford, the first such appointment ever made in Newark, to do both social and scientific work.
4. Mrs. Keubler of the Contemporary Club became interested and as a result has offered us the use of the Silver Lake Community house to be used for colored people certain days in the week.
5. Recreation-- The Newark Board of Education has granted us the use of the Belmont Avenue School for social center to be used each Friday evening.
6. Incorporation of the organization has taken place through kindness of Lawyer Oliver Randolph.
7. Arrangement of committees for a mass meeting in Jersey City in order to get that organization on working

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Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

William M. Ashby.

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NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF N.J.
TREASURER'S STATEMENT TO DATE.

R e c e i p t s.

Balance July 1st, 1917- - - - -	\$745.74
memberships and donations - - - - -	15.00
	<u>\$758.74</u>

E x p e n d i t u r e s.

Telephone, stationery, loan etc - - -	\$18.32
To William M. Ashby - - - - -	50.00
	<u>68.32</u>
Balance to date - - - - -	\$690.42